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SUBJECT: JANUARY 10 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: A/S HILL VISIT, SENIOR
DIALOGUE, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT, ADMIRAL KEATING VISIT, TAIWAN,
OLYMPICS

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11. Key points at the January 10 MFA Press Briefing:

-- The MFA announced that EAP A/S Hill was to meet with VFM Wu Dawei that afternoon in Beijing and stated that, regarding the Six-Party Talks, Second-Phase Actions are "moving along smoothly."

-- The Fifth U.S.-China Senior Dialogue will take place January 17-18, led by Deputy Secretary Negroponte and VFM Dai Bingguo.

-- The spokesman had not heard of a possible new EU "mechanism" for African development but said that China is "open" to cooperation with countries and organizations that have a "sincere" interest in African development.

-- The spokesperson confirmed that PACOM Commander Admiral Keating will visit China January 13-16, traveling to Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

A/S Hill in Beijing, Six-Party Talks

12. At the January 10 regular MFA press briefing, spokesperson Jiang Yu told reporters that EAP A/S Hill would meet with VFM Wu Dawei that afternoon. Regarding the Six-Party Talks, Jiang said that the Second-Phase Actions are "moving along smoothly" and that all parties have shown "political will, sound commitment and coordination."

Senior Dialogue Announced, January 17-18

13. Jiang announced that the Fifth U.S.-China Senior Dialogue will take place January 17-18, led by Deputy Secretary Negroponte and VFM Dai Bingguo. The two sides will hold an "in-depth exchange of views on major international and regional issues of mutual interest," she added.

African Development

14. In response to a reporter's question, Jiang said she had not heard of a possible new EU "mechanism" for African development, but that China is "open" to cooperation with countries and organizations that have a "sincere" interest in African development. She added that China and the EU both have experienced long-term friendship and cooperation with Africa, and both strive for peace, stability and sustainable development in the region.

Malawi, Marshall Islands to Recognize PRC?

¶15. China is willing to develop friendly relations with any country on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the one-China principle, Jiang said when asked about the possibility of Malawi and the Marshall Islands establishing formal diplomatic ties with the PRC.

Japanese Company Recalls Globes over Taiwan Name?

¶16. The spokesperson did not have any specifics regarding a reporter's question about a recall of globes made by a Japanese company in China depicting Taiwan as part of the People's Republic of China. Jiang nevertheless stated that the international community "universally recognizes" the one-China principle and that companies operating in China "must abide by Chinese laws and regulations."

Swiss Equestrian Team Withdrawal, ROK Explosion, Iran

¶17. Jiang referred questions about the Swiss equestrian team's withdrawal from the 2008 Olympic Games because of concerns over the climate in Hong Kong to the "relevant authorities." She had no new information on the 12 Chinese citizens reportedly killed in the January 7 explosion in the ROK. Jiang appeared to misunderstand a question regarding U.S. claims that Iran has been using banks as channels for financing terrorism, responding that the nuclear issue should be solved through dialogue and negotiation.

Admiral Keating Visit

¶18. The spokesperson confirmed that PACOM Commander Admiral Keating will visit China January 13-16, traveling to Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. In response to a reporter's question, Jiang said that

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China has stated "many times" its position on U.S. Navy port visits to Hong Kong. Jiang referred other questions on Admiral Keating's visit to China's Ministry of Defense.

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